

# Herbert Hoover National Historic Site General Management Plan

## *Alternative D*

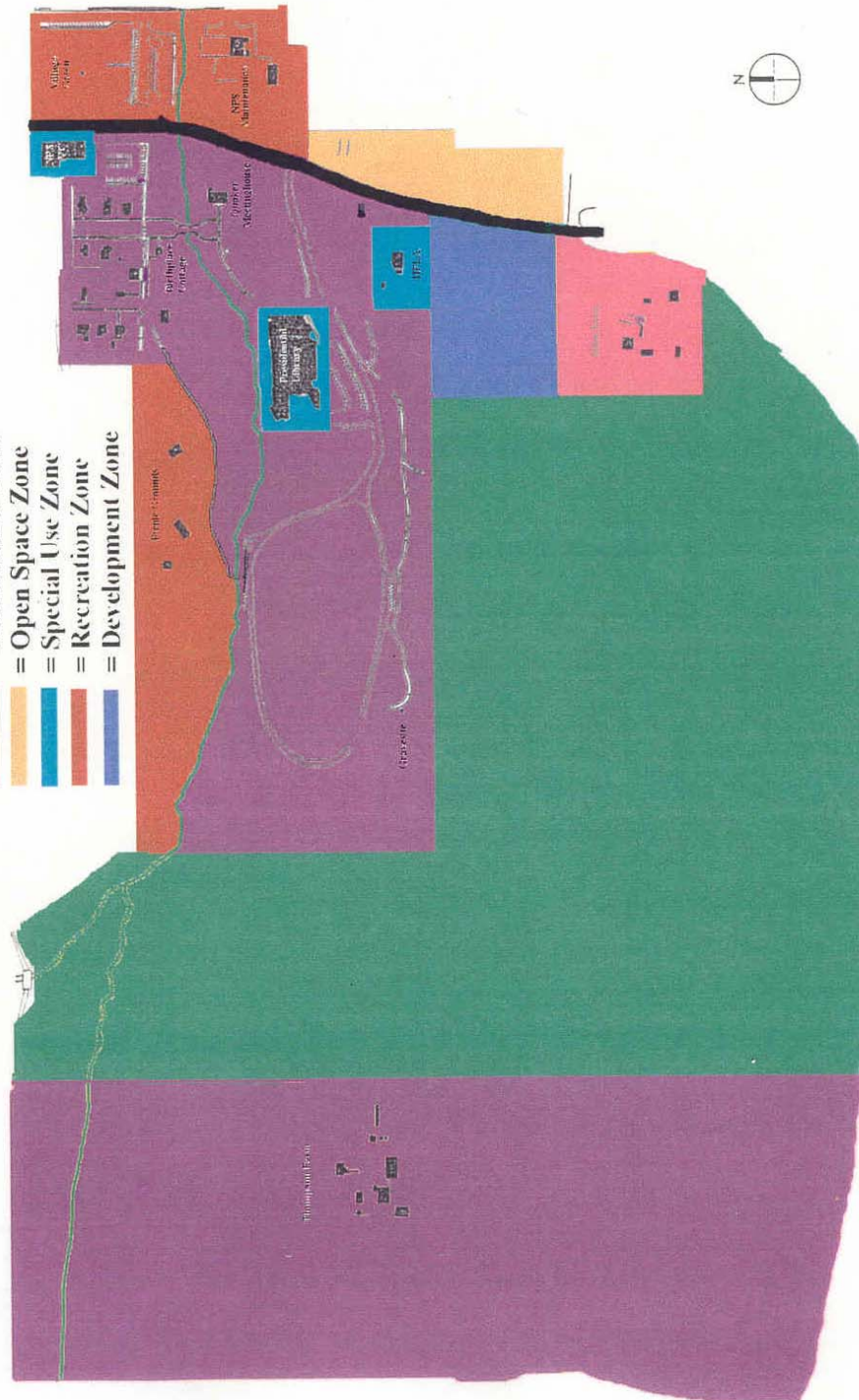
### **Concept:**

This alternative would emphasize the accommodation of visitors with multiple opportunities to learn the entire story of Herbert Hoover's life and meaning. The NPS would manage cultural and natural resources to support high levels of visitor access and use.



# MANAGEMENT ZONES

- = Cultural Zone
- = Natural Zone
- = Maintenance Zone
- = Open Space Zone
- = Special Use Zone
- = Recreation Zone
- = Development Zone



# MANAGEMENT ZONES - ALTERNATIVE D

The following pages describe management prescriptions for each management zone.

## Cultural Zone

### *Desired Resource Conditions and Visitor Experiences*

*This zone would emphasize the interpretation of the cultural resources associated with Herbert Hoover's early life. The NPS would preserve, protect, and maintain cultural resources in good condition through rehabilitation treatments within a highly designed setting. Historic structures and a reconstructed structure would provide a setting for museum exhibits and public access to the greatest extent possible without jeopardizing the long-term integrity of the structures. Natural resources would remain in an intensively manipulated and maintained condition with some non-native species. No significant natural resources would occur in this zone. Visitors would encounter an extensive amount and variety of media and interpretive programs. They would have a high level of choice in activities and experiences with some direction to their movement in the congested Birthplace Cottage area. Visitors would have a high probability of encountering staff in formal programs and informal contacts. They would have a very high probability of encountering other visitors in the Birthplace Cottage area. Visitors would have some opportunity for solitude and discovery in the Gravesite and Thompson Farm areas. Facilities would provide vehicular and pedestrian access to significant cultural resources.*

### **Resource Management**

Rehabilitation of historic structures for museum exhibits, support services, and offices would support interpretation and visitor services. Interpretation of historic structures would reflect the Historic Site's period of significance

The NPS would conduct studies to determine and evaluate existing conditions of all historic structures. The NPS would take resource management actions intended to prevent deterioration of the existing conditions of any cultural resources.

The NPS would manage the cultural landscape to preserve the period of significance. The Cultural Zone would retain its existing appearance. The NPS would not initiate any development or use in this zone that could jeopardize the integrity of any resource. The Birthplace Cottage and Gravesite would remain free from any development or activity other than interpretive or commemorative use. The NPS would develop landscaping to diminish the visual prominence of Parkside Drive from the Historic Site

### **Interpretation**

This zone would emphasize visitor services, interpretation, and education. Interpretation would explain the intent of the landscape features in this zone, especially the vista between the Gravesite and the Birthplace Cottage, the Downey Street trace, the contrived village scene, and the HHPL.

The NPS would locate orientation wayside exhibits at the primary entrances to the Historic Site: HHPL parking lot, the Water Street parking lot, the old visitor center's parking lot, and the Boy Scout picnic shelter. It would place an orientation exhibit at the Downey Street entrance to the Historic Site.

Information services, orientation exhibits, an interpretive video, and publications at the new orientation center would emphasize the connection between Hoover's boyhood and his later accomplishments. At the P.T. Smith house, special exhibits (unstaffed) would complement the HHPL's special exhibits and events or support special NPS interpretation initiatives. Wayside exhibits and audio stations at the Thompson Farm would interpret the influence of agriculture upon Hoover and his personal connection to the farm. Wayside exhibits, an audio station, and museum exhibits (unstaffed) at the reconstructed "House of the Maples" would interpret Hoover's family life. Museum exhibits at the visitor center would interpret Hoover's childhood development, especially the influence of education, religion, family, and West Branch upon his personality and values. Wayside exhibits would interpret the significance of individual structures and sites.

Paid staff and volunteers would offer informal interpretive services at the principal resources including the Birthplace Cottage, the Friends Meetinghouse, Blacksmith Shop, and the Schoolhouse. Guided tours in the historic area and West Branch would emphasize the overall impact of Hoover's boyhood upon his careers and public life.

The NPS would work with the HHPL, the HPLA, and local school districts to produce education programs, exhibits, and products that cover a complete spectrum of Hoover's life and significance. NPS education programs, presented in the new orientation center, would emphasize the connection between Hoover's childhood and his adult life.

Ongoing surveys of visitor satisfaction would determine if the Historic Site would need to develop capacities for any of its interpretive programs.

### **Visitor Capacity and Circulation**

To recognize and mitigate adverse impacts of visitation upon natural and cultural resources, the NPS would document baseline conditions of resources; then periodically monitor and record resource conditions. Conditions of the Birthplace Cottage, the Friends Meetinghouse, the Schoolhouse, and the Blacksmith Shop would receive primary emphasis. If any resources appeared affected by visitor use, the NPS would rehabilitate the resource to withstand such use.

### **Visitor Facilities to be Expanded, Removed, or Restricted**

The NPS would reconstruct the "House of the Maples," using its interior space for museum exhibits interpreting Hoover's family life. The NPS would rehabilitate the P.T. Smith house into unstaffed exhibit space. The NPS would maintain and interpret the

Thompson Farm to reflect the influence of the agricultural environment upon Hoover's boyhood world.

### **Offices, Maintenance Facilities, and Utilities**

The Varney, C.E. Smith, and Garvin houses would provide space for staff offices.

The NPS would install utilities necessary to support the reconstructed "House of the Maples" and the P.T. Smith exhibits.

The NPS would build a paved service road to connect the new maintenance facility in the Maintenance Zone with the Loop Road.

## **Natural Zone**

### ***Desired Resource Conditions and Visitor Experiences***

*This zone would emphasize the interpretation of natural resources associated with Herbert Hoover's early life. The NPS would manage natural resources to meet all applicable laws, policies, and management standards, but it would preserve existing conditions with as little direct intervention as possible. The NPS would not attempt to restore any ecosystems. This zone would not have any significant cultural resources. Activities and facilities would not jeopardize cultural resources in adjacent zones. Visitors would have a choice of well-defined pedestrian access facilities with both hardened trails and simple footpaths. They would encounter a wide variety of interpretive programs and media explaining the connection between Herbert Hoover and the natural world. They would have a moderate probability of meeting other people. Visitors would have a moderate sense of discovery. Some areas would provide a high degree of solitude.*

### **Resource Management**

The NPS would manage the prairie and other natural resources as an outdoor setting for the interpretation of Herbert Hoover. Resource management actions would maintain current conditions with the least possible intervention needed to prevent a deterioration of the present conditions. The NPS would not attempt to restore complete ecosystems or individual species of plants and animals to their natural condition. Resource management would ensure that the prairie would remain in its present condition, but no new scientific restoration of the prairie would take place.

### **Interpretation**

Interpretation programs and media in the prairie would emphasize the influence of the natural environment upon Hoover's boyhood, adult life, and career. Interpretation also would emphasize Hoover's appreciation of natural resources



## **Visitor Capacity and Circulation**

To recognize and mitigate adverse impacts of visitor use upon natural resources, the NPS would document baseline conditions of resources; then periodically monitor and record resource conditions. Conditions of the prairie and “Hoover Creek” would receive primary emphasis. If visitor use affected any resource, the NPS would rehabilitate that resource to withstand such use.

## **Visitor Facilities to be Expanded, Removed, or Restricted**

The NPS would expand the interpretive trail system in the prairie with new trails and wayside exhibits. Some of the trail would become hard surfaced to ensure full accessibility for visitors.

## **Offices, Maintenance Facilities, and Utilities**

Existing utilities would remain in place. The NPS would build a paved service road to connect the new maintenance facility in the Maintenance Zone with the Loop Road.

### **Development Zone**

#### ***Desired Resource Conditions and Visitor Experiences***

*This zone would welcome visitors with a comprehensive orientation to the Historic Site, the HHPL, the HPLA, and the City of West Branch. A new orientation center would offer visitors a variety of quality orientation and interpretive experiences. Visitors would have a nearly constant interaction with other people. They would have a high probability of encountering staff responsive to their need for information. They would have almost no opportunity for quiet and solitude. This zone would not contain any significant natural or cultural resources. While the natural setting would undergo substantial modification and intensive management, development would have a low impact on nearby natural or cultural resources, especially the view from the Gravesite. The design of the facility would attract the attention of motorists on Parkside Drive, but express great sensitivity to the natural landscape. Landscaping would include only native species. This zone would include hardened circulation and parking areas. The intensively maintained orientation center would provide a safe and aesthetic work environment for staff. Its minimal physical footprint would remain responsive to its orientation and interpretation functions. To the greatest degree practical, the center would represent a model of best management practices and sustainable development. The facility would contain and mitigate the impact of pollutants, storm-water runoff, and other disturbances on adjacent zones.*

## **Resource Management**

Natural resources would undergo substantial modification and intensive management with a high degree of landscaping.

## **Interpretation**

Comprehensive orientation to public programs, facilities, and special events at the Historic Site, the HHPL, and West Branch, would take place in a new orientation center. Orientation would emphasize the multiple opportunities to understand the significance and meaning of Herbert Hoover. In addition to orientation and visitor services, the center would provide an interpretive film, publications, and a cooperating association sales area. The sales area would provide a comprehensive selection of publications related to Herbert Hoover.

The NPS would move the Travelers Information System to the orientation center. It would continue to broadcast an orientation message to travelers on Interstate 80. Its message would include all interpretive programs, exhibits, and special events available at the Historic Site, the HHPL, and West Branch.

## **Visitor Capacity and Circulation**

The orientation center would include parking and traffic/pedestrian circulation. The NPS would build sidewalks to connect the orientation center with the HHPL and the Downey Street trace. Although the orientation center would provide a few parking spaces for recreational vehicles and buses, most would park in the Water Street parking lot. The NPS would establish overflow parking for special events by constructing a structurally reinforced lawn area alongside the entire Loop Road. If a need for additional overflow parking developed in the future, the NPS would expand the Water Street parking lot to the south in the Recreation Zone.

## **Visitor Facilities to be Expanded, Removed, or Restricted**

The NPS would build an orientation center including an information/fee collection desk, orientation exhibits, cooperating association sales and storage areas, theater, classroom, special exhibit preparation area, education preparation area, public rest rooms, staff offices, and a parking lot for cars and recreational vehicles or buses. The center's design would take care to have minimum impact on the Commemorative Zone.

The NPS would construct a single-lane, one-way street to connect Parkside Drive to the orientation center parking lot and to the HHPL. The NPS would work closely with the HHPL to ensure that the new street facilitated entry into the HHPL's parking lot. Design of the street would take special care to minimize impacts on the natural environment. Sidewalks would connect the Center with the HHPL and the Downey Street trace. The NPS would work closely with the HPLA to ensure that the new street and sidewalks do not affect their property and their operation.

## **Offices, Maintenance Facilities, and Utilities**

NPS personnel would maintain the orientation center. The orientation center would provide offices for staff working in the center. The NPS would install necessary utility systems to support the center.

### **Maintenance Zone**

#### ***Desired Resource Conditions and Visitor Experiences***

*This zone would provide a safe, low-profile location for the Historic Site's maintenance operations. Although the setting would undergo substantial modification and intensive management, the design of new buildings would remain compatible with the rhythm, order, circulation, and character defining features of the Miles Farm buildings. The facility would harmonize with the setting of the adjacent zones. Where feasible, the facility would employ rehabilitated farm structures. The physical footprint of structures and stored materials would remain minimal. This zone would include hardened circulation and parking areas. To the greatest degree practical, the facility would serve as a model of best management practices and sustainable development. The facility would contain and mitigate the impact of pollutants, storm-water runoff, and other disturbances on adjacent zones. Only limited, incidental visitor access would occur in this zone with no visitor facilities, trails, services, or programs. Visitors would encounter staff conducting maintenance functions. They rarely would encounter other visitors. The facility's landscaping would limit its visual and auditory impact upon visitors in adjacent zones while creating a harmonious setting with adjacent natural resources. Landscaping would include only native species.*

#### **Resource Management**

Where feasible, the new maintenance facility would employ rehabilitated structures at the Isaac Miles Farm. The design of new buildings would remain compatible with the rhythm, order, circulation, and character defining features of the farm. The NPS would stabilize farm buildings not suitable or feasible for use in the maintenance facility.

#### **Interpretation**

No active interpretation would take place in this zone. Publications would interpret the Isaac Miles Farm.

#### **Visitor Capacity and Circulation**

None.

#### **Visitor Facilities to be Expanded, Removed, or Restricted**

None.



## **Offices, Maintenance Facilities, and Utilities**

The NPS would establish a centralized maintenance facility in this zone. This facility would include space for offices, shops, a small parking lot, and storage for vehicles, equipment, and supplies. Where feasible, the new maintenance facility would employ rehabilitated structures at the Isaac Miles Farm. The NPS would move a prefabricated building in the existing maintenance facility to the new location. New construction of buildings would supplement the existing structures and the prefabricated building. It would pave the access road from Parkside Drive to the Isaac Miles Farm.

The NPS would install utilities necessary to support the new maintenance facility.

## **Open Space Zone**

### ***Desired Resource Conditions and Visitor Experiences***

*This zone would provide an open, spacious atmosphere to support the commemorative setting of the Historic Site. Natural Resources would remain in a highly manipulated condition as agricultural fields or as maintained groundcover vegetation. This area would not contain any significant cultural resources. Vegetation would include non-native species. Only limited, incidental visitor access would occur in this zone with no visitor facilities, trails, services, or programs. Visitors would rarely encounter other people. Contact with staff would remain limited to employees conducting maintenance functions.*

### **Resource Management**

The NPS would continue to manage this zone as maintained ground cover including non-native grass species. This would enhance the open, spacious area of the Cultural Zone.

### **Interpretation**

None.

### **Visitor Capacity and Circulation**

Visitors would have only incidental access to this zone. The NPS would maintain existing sidewalks.

### **Visitor Facilities to be Expanded, Removed, or Restricted**

None.

## **Offices, Maintenance Facilities, and Utilities**

This zone would not have any offices or maintenance facilities. Existing utilities would remain.

### **Special Use Zone**

#### ***Desired Resource Conditions and Visitor Experiences***

*This zone would include facilities operated or controlled by other governmental agencies or private interests on lands within the boundary of the Historic Site. The HHPL, the Federal Building, and the Administrative Building for the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, Inc., all support the public's understanding and appreciation of President Hoover. Visitors would have access to the HHPL and the Federal Building where they would have a high probability of encountering other visitors. Visitor experiences would include unstaffed museum exhibits, an interpretive film, information desks, sales areas, and visitor convenience facilities. Buildings would dominate natural resources. The design of the east façade of the HHPL represents a significant cultural resource as a tangible connection to President Hoover. The intensively designed and maintained buildings would provide safe and aesthetic work environments for staff.*

## **Resource Management**

The NPS would ensure the maintenance of the visitor center in a clean, safe, and welcoming condition.

## **Interpretation**

The NPS would continue to operate a staffed information desk in the visitor center. It would convert the orientation exhibit into a museum exhibit concerning Hoover's childhood development, especially the influence of education, religion, family, and West Branch upon his personality and values. The NPS would convert the special exhibit room into an office and workspace.

## **Visitor Capacity and Circulation**

If special events or periods of high visitation would fill parking areas, the NPS would direct visitors to hardened overflow parking area along the Loop Road and to alternative parking areas off-site.

## **Visitor Facilities to be Expanded, Removed, or Restricted**

In the visitor center, the NPS would convert the orientation exhibit to a museum exhibit. It would convert the special exhibit room into an office and workspace.

## Offices, Maintenance Facilities, and Utilities

The NPS would convert the special exhibit room in the visitor center into an office and workspace. Public rest rooms, the employee break room, workroom, conference room, research library, and a storage area would remain in the building. Existing utilities would remain.

### Recreation Zone

#### *Desired Resource Conditions and Visitor Experiences*

*This zone would provide visitors and local residents with facilities and opportunities for safe recreational activities that do not relate to the commemoration of President Hoover. Activities would include picnicking, kite flying, softball, badminton, volleyball, cross-country skiing, and recreational walking. This zone would include a designated public assembly area for First Amendment activities. Social and group activities would result in a moderate degree of contact with other visitors. Visitors would have a high degree of contact with other visitors during special events and First Amendment activities. Contact with staff would remain limited to employees conducting maintenance and protection functions. Visitors would have safe, accessible, and enjoyable experiences. They would have a low opportunity for solitude. No significant cultural resources would occur in this zone. Natural resources would remain in a highly designed and manipulated condition. Vegetation would include non-native species. Facilities would include picnic shelters and tables, restrooms, drinking fountains, paved sidewalks, and a parking area.*

#### **Resource Management**

After removal of the buildings in the present maintenance facility, the NPS would rehabilitate and re-vegetate the area as green space.

The NPS would monitor the condition of the historic Boy Scout picnic shelter to determine the impact of unrestricted visitor use. If the studies concluded that such use represented a long-term threat to the structure, the NPS would rehabilitate the shelter to withstand such use.

The landscape in this zone would remain highly manipulated and intensively maintained including the use of non-native species of grass. The NPS would continue to care for the trees and mow the lawns on a regular basis. The landscaping would complement the open, spacious setting of the Cultural Zone.

#### **Interpretation**

The NPS would present interpretive programs to complement special events held in this zone.

## **Visitor Capacity and Circulation**

The NPS would maintain existing walkways.

## **Visitor Facilities to be Expanded, Removed, or Restricted**

If visitor use increased, the NPS would install additional picnic tables and another comfort station.

## **Offices, Maintenance Facilities, and Utilities**

Upon relocation of the maintenance facility, the NPS would remove all buildings in the present maintenance facility area. Utilities in the other areas of this zone would remain.

### **General Prescriptions for this Alternative**

## **Adjacent Land Use**

The NPS would encourage the City of West Branch to adopt and follow growth policies and zoning compatible with the open and spacious setting of the Historic Site. Areas of particular attention would include properties on Downey Street, Wetherell Street, Parkside Drive, and in areas along the northwest boundary proposed for residential and commercial development.

## **Partnerships**

The NPS would facilitate a coordinated interpretation program with the HHPL, the City of West Branch, and the HPLA. Whenever possible, the partners would work together to produce special exhibits and events intended to enhance public understanding of President Hoover. Together the partners would offer the public opportunities to gain a complete view of Hoover's life and accomplishments through public programs, education programs, special exhibits, and special events.

## **Staffing**

The Historic Site's staffing levels would reflect an emphasis on interpretation. The NPS would add staff to operate the orientation center, provide interpretive tours of cultural and natural resources, present talks and other special programs, develop permanent and temporary exhibits, and present an extensive educational program.

## **Signs**

Signs on Parkside Drive would mark the entrance to the orientation center, the visitor center parking lot, and the Water Street parking lot. Directional signs at Parkside Drive and the orientation center parking lot would guide vehicular traffic down the new one-way street to the HHPL and the Gravesite. Directional signs would guide pedestrians

from the orientation center to the Downey Street Trace, the HHPL, Birthplace Cottage, the Gravesite, the prairie, and other features in the Cultural Zone. A directional sign on the Herbert Hoover Highway would guide vehicular traffic to the Thompson Farm.

### **Boundary Adjustments**

The NPS would not propose any adjustments to its boundary.

### **Summary of Needed and Allowable Changes**

Management Zone	Needed or Allowable Changes
Cultural Zone	Rehabilitate P.T. Smith house for exhibits Reconstruct House of the Maples Add interpretive staff Rehabilitate Varney house for offices Add additional wayside exhibits
Natural Zone	Provide additional interpretive activities involving the prairie and creek
Development Zone	Construct orientation center Install appropriate landscaping and park facilities Construct street from orientation center to the Loop Road
Maintenance Zone	Relocate maintenance facility to the Isaac Miles Farm Construct service road from maintenance facility to the Loop Road
Open Space Zone	No changes
Recreation Zone	Remove existing maintenance buildings Rehabilitate and re-vegetate area
Special Use Zone	Rehabilitate visitor center orientation exhibit into a museum exhibit Convert visitor center special exhibit room into an office and workspace Staff visitor center information desk

## **COSTS**

Because of the conceptual nature of this plan, the following cost estimates remain very general. They provide one means for comparing the various alternatives. Future design planning will prepare detailed cost estimates.

### **Development Costs**

Maintenance facility:	\$ 2,268,800
Orientation center:	\$ 1,824,000
Road from center to Loop Road:	\$ 162,000
Reconstruct House of the Maples	\$ 548,000
Visitor center rehabilitation:	\$ 293,000
P.T. Smith house rehabilitation:	\$ 51,000
Varney house rehabilitation:	\$ 88,000
Reinforced lawn parking:	\$ 61,000
Wayside exhibits:	\$ 102,000

Total	\$ 5,397,800
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### **Additional Operating Costs**

The orientation center, new maintenance facility, reconstructed “House of the Maples,” rehabilitated P.T. Smith house, rehabilitated Varney house, and rehabilitated visitor center would cost approximately \$ 15,000 per year to operate and maintain. The 9.67 additional FTE would require an annual cost of \$ 376,000.

## **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Additional Studies and Plans**

This alternative would require additional design planning for the new orientation center, parking lot, and walkways; the street connecting the orientation center with the Loop Road, the new maintenance facility; the reconstruction of the “House of the Maples” and installation of museum exhibits; the rehabilitation of P.T. Smith house for special exhibits; the rehabilitation of the visitor center for museum exhibits and staff offices; and the rehabilitation of the Varney house for offices. This planning would include detailed project costs, resource impacts, and actions necessary to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Historic Preservation Act.

- Long Range Interpretation Plan/Comprehensive Interpretation Plan
- Education Plan
- Museum Exhibit Plan

- Wayside Exhibit Plan
- Historic Resource Study
- Cultural Landscape Management Plan
- Historic Structure Report and Structural Analyses for the Thompson Farm Barn and the Thompson Farm House
- Historic Structure Report for the “House of the Maples”
- Baseline Inventory of Existing Conditions of Natural Resources
- Baseline Inventory of Existing Conditions of Cultural Resources
- Administrative History